

Application No.: 09/899,537

Docket No.: 21994-00025-US

REMARKS

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

The Office Action and prior art relied upon have been carefully considered. Applicant has attended to the informalities listed as paragraphs 2-4 (page 2) of the Office Action.

Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Parulski et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,440,343). Claim 3 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parulski et al. in view of Oda (U.S. Patent No. 5,528,291). Claim 4 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parulski et al. in view of Kawaoka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,251,036).

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the distinguishing characteristics of the invention as compared to the cited prior art.

According to the present invention, as shown in Fig. 2, the image sensing apparatus is able to intercept all electric charges, which are transmitted from a whole area of a matrix of a plurality of photoelectric converting elements in the horizontal direction and a plurality of photoelectric converting elements in the vertical direction. The area is a part of an image sensing area disposed on a far side of the outputting section of the horizontal transmitting CCD. In other words, the area D is an area for intercepting transmission of an electric charge from the area E (see Fig. 2 and line 22 in page 9 to line 17 in page 10).

Parulski et al. (US No. 5,440,343), as shown in Fig. 4, provides the charge clearing structure 46 that partially intercepts a signal charge that is transmitted from the plurality of photoelectric converting elements (see Abstract and column 7, lines 12-46). Signal processing for an inputted video signal is made complicated by the configuration disclosed in Parulski that partially intercepts or does not intercept photoelectric converting elements in the area of a matrix.

In contrast, the image sensing apparatus according to the present invention changes its function in accordance to whether or not all electric charges from the whole area, which is allocated in a part of the image sensing area disposed on a far side from the outputting section of the horizontal transmitting CCD in the plurality of photoelectric converting elements, are

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intercepted. This results in increasing or decreasing the number of pixels in the horizontal direction. Consequently, signal processing is made simpler.

Accordingly, the configuration of the present invention is completely different from that of Parulski et al. so that the reference does not anticipate the claimed invention under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

The remaining secondary references cited by the Examiner are somewhat related to the technology of the invention. However, amended claim 1 avoids the primary reference to Parulski so that the combination rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 are now untenable and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration of the application and a favorable action thereon is courteously solicited.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 21994-00025-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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